

evolutionary development that occurred in the Pre-Cambrian and produced all the different phyla of animals, but left no evidence.

*ED. COM. If there are no fossils showing a long period of pre-Cambrian evolution, then this is a huge **GAP** in the fossil record for evolution. Cambrian fossils include creatures as diverse and specialised as Trilobites (now extinct), Ostracods and Velvet worms (still here). They all appeared fully formed. Exactly what you would predict on the basis of the Genesis account of special creation followed by rapid burial sometime after creation. Evolutionists who scoff at creationists and accuse them of believing things that cannot be seen should look at themselves.*

SPIKES REVEAL OLD SPONGES, as reported in *New Scientist* 12 April 1997, p19. Sponges are considered to be amongst the simplest multicellular animals but until recently they had not been found in the oldest fossil bearing rocks. Palaeontologists from Oxford University UK looked for silica spicules (microscopic spikes that form a stiff supportive framework for sponges) and found them in Mongolian lower Cambrian rocks believed to be 544 million years old. The spicules have the same shape and composition as those in today's sponges. Discoverer, Martin Brasier, says this is the only clear evidence that sponges existed so early.

ED. COM. The fact that palaeontologists were able to find and identify fossil sponges by looking for features found in present day living ones, proves sponges have produced their own kind since these fossils were formed. It also reveals whether evolution or creation, is more useful for identifying fossils. The Oxford evolutionary scientists found what they wanted by inconsistently acting like creationists searching for the "same kind" of features as exist today.

SUDDENLY FOSSILS

Dr TS Kemp - Curator of Zoological Collections, Oxford University said in 1999 "... as has been known and puzzled about for well over a century, virtually all the animal phyla and most of the contained classes first appear as fossils in the Cambrian in an extraordinarily small window of time." ⁴

*ED. COM. Ostracods and bacteria, sponges and the jellyfish (found in Australia's famous Ediacara Cambrian/Pre-Cambrian boundary deposits), are only four examples from a vast number of fossil creatures easy to recognise, because they are still here. This sudden appearance at the base of all family trees also produces the biggest fossil **GAP** of all for evolution.*

BURIED FOSSIL BELIEFS

Unknown to most people, the standard interpretation of the fossil record is based on the following sequence of hidden assumptions:

- (a) Most fossils are the remains of creatures,
- (b) which were buried where they lived and died,
- (c) therefore most rock layers represent preserved environments,
- (d) which are found in recognizable order,
- (e) so the fossil record shows the history of life,
- (f) and this sequence reveals a progression from simple to complex life forms,
- (g) which is the evidence for evolution.

This record of layers containing fossils, presented one on top of the other, has become known as the Geologic Column. Therefore any strata which are missing because they have been eroded or were not deposited in the first place, have produced a **GEOLOGICAL GAP** in the evidence.

In addition, fossils which would be evolutionary links between different creatures but have not been found, produce a **BIOLOGICAL GAP** (missing link) in the fossil record of evolution. These two **GAP** types are not the same. The importance of this will be shown later.



FISHY FAMILY TREE according to *Nature* Vol 397, p564, 18 February 1999 which asks where did bony fishes come from and includes the statement: "However, as you trace these groups backwards in time through the fossil record the lobe fin fishes become more diverse until in the Devonian period, 408-363 million years ago, you find a wide range of lobe fins alongside just a few ray fins. But then the record stops abruptly."

*ED. COM. Lobe fin fishes today include only African, Australian and South American lungfishes plus the Coelacanth. Their known fossil record starts with many types and ends with few - the opposite of evolution. The abrupt start of the "fishy family" tree is the evidence of another large **GAP** in evolutionary records.*